



Sweetland/Swetland Lore #67 Fall 2013

SWEETLAND/SWETLAND FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Reunion to be in Cortland, N.Y. in 2014

The Freetown Corners area of Cortland, New York is where Reunion Chair Nancy Graczyk's ancestors lived, including Aaron Swetland (1753-1819) born in Hebron CT, who enlisted as a Revolutionary War soldier from Sharon CT. He lived in Salisbury CT, moved to Granville NY and then moved to Freetown, NY between 1803 and 1818 where he later died and is buried.



Rolling hills characterize the Freetown Area of Cortland.

Place: Cortland and Freetown Corners, New York

Lodging:

July 18 and 19, 2014 Cortland Ramada, 2 River Street, Cortland NY 13045
Call 607-756-4431 to reserve a room at the Cortland Ramada under the Swetland Reunion Block.

Rates are \$109 for one night double occupancy OR \$119 for one night double occupancy AND breakfast buffet includes breakfast for two. Rooms must be reserved by June 18, 2014.

There are also several other motels in the area.

Agenda:

Friday July 18, 2014

2:30 PM meet at the Ramada lobby to carpool to Freetown Corners to find out from Nancy Graczyk (4th great granddaughter of Aaron Swetland) where Aaron Swetland lived, find his grave at the Freetown Corners

Cemetery, and learn about him and his family.

5:00PM return to Ramada.

6:00 PM meet for evening gathering and meal at Perkin's Restaurant in Cortland.

Saturday July 19, 2014

The meeting room (off the lobby) will be open early. Displays can be set up at any time.

9:00 AM in the meeting room, Nancy Graczyk will talk about Aaron Swetland and his role in

the American Revolution. We will also reenact how Aaron Swetland came to Freetown . There will be other speakers.

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REUNION ISSUE

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SFA OFFICERS AND WEBSITE

DONATION SLIP

"Next year we expect to meet many of you who have not attended a reunion."

—Carol Gregoire
SFA President

Noon, the buffet lunch will be ready in the meeting room. Following lunch, the Swetland Family Association meeting will be held.

Other Cortland Attractions:

- Cortland Historical Society 25 Homer Ave, Cortland NY 607 -756 -6071
- The 1890 House Museum 37 Tompkins St, Cortland NY 607-756-7551
- Cortland New York Living History Center (Including tractors from yesteryear)
- 4386 US Route 11 , Cortland NY 607-299-4185
- Cortland Country Music Park 1824 State Route 13, Cortland NY 607 -753-0377
- Shipwreck Amusement Center 744 Route 13, Cortland NY 607-758-8585



Sweetland/Swetland Family Association Reunion Attendance Form

Please Clip and Mail Form to Register

My payment of \$27.00 per person for luncheon and renting the meeting room is included, made payable to Swetland Family Association

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Total people attending X \$27.00 = total money sending in \$ _____

My name and the names of the other people attending with me are listed below. Please print clearly the name(s) as you would like them to appear on name tag

Additional information to help us size our reunion needs:

1. I/We will be joining the carpool from the Cortland Ramada to Freetown Corners Friday afternoon
yes/no _____ number attending _____

I will drive my car as part of the car pool yes/no _____

E mail address or phone number _____

2.. I/We will be attending the Friday evening meal and gathering yes/no _____
number attending _____

3.I/We would like to be on the agenda to speak on Sweetland/Swetland ancestors or topics
yes/no _____ person(s) of topic you will be speaking about _____ audio visual
equipment needed _____

Please note that the money you are sending in covers Saturday's lunch and conference room rental only. You will be responsible for your supper on Friday evening as well as for making your room reservations.

Please return form with appropriate payment (Payable to Swetland Family Association) to :

Priscilla Swetland
4819 State Route 367
Montrose PA 18801

Phone: 570 – 934-2187 from May through November
Phone: 570 – 498 – 9943 from December through April

Why Did Our Ancestors Move?

By Carol Gregoire, SFA President

Have you ever wondered why your ancestors moved? People have many reasons why they move to certain places. It took my husband Bob and I fifteen years to decide to move to Florida. The dream started in 1972 while attending college. A sociology professor gave me forms to fill out about what I valued in life. So I wrote that my husband and I enjoyed being outdoors working on our land, riding our motorcycle and going to the beach, especially Cape Cod. The final question was "What prevents you from doing what you enjoy and value?" So I realized the weather prevented us from doing those things.

What sparked our dream was Bob's parents spent their winters in Florida and when they told us how nice the weather was I was envious. The weather in Florida averages 72 degrees but in Mass. it was in the teens in January. Our first experience in Florida was in 1977 when we rented a camper and saw all the tourist spots. My first reaction to Florida was, "Bob, Florida looks like a huge Cape Cod", and I loved Cape Cod. I was hooked on Florida.

The next time we visited the Sunshine State was for our twentieth anniversary in 1980 and we went to Miami Beach. My desire for the state grew. Back home I was putting up with stoking the wood fires at home and in my antique shop. One day in January a customer said, "I'll be back when it warms up." That comment caused me to realize, "Why are we putting up with this?" So I said to Bob, "Other people have seasonal businesses; why not us?" By this time his parents had moved to Florida permanently as well as his brother and his wife. So my desire to move was even greater.

We had been taking my business with us by packing our van and doing shows. So we did have some income for three months in Florida. I wanted to move but Bob wasn't ready since he had a successful business as a carpenter.

In 1987 my Dad told me he wanted to buy a place in the south maybe North Carolina. I said, "Dad we're thinking of buying a place in Florida. How about we look together?" Dad and I flew to West Palm Beach and put 2,500 miles on a rental car looking for places to buy. Finally I said, "Dad we need a break. Let's drive to Lake Okeechobee the largest lake in Florida," which we did. Then we drove twenty miles toward the coast to Stuart where we found an agent and we agreed that the first house we saw was for us. Dad gave us a down payment, an inheritance from my mother who had passed away from cancer. He told me, "I'm giving this gift and the house is all yours. All I ask is that I can live here every winter."



So it took us fifteen years to realize our dream. We do enjoy the walks on the beach and working in the yard. Our homegrown tomatoes and peppers are delicious. We never did ride a motorcycle in Florida.

During the winter what I miss the most is my family. Some of you met our daughter, Wendy, at the last reunion. We have a son, Alan, who blessed us with four grandchildren and now we have six great-grandchildren (another one is due in November). So you understand how I miss them. I plan outings when we stay at Wendy's house in Mass. We sold our house to Wendy in 1990 so she graciously let us stay with her every summer. My grandson, Justin, wrote at Christmas, "This summer I cannot wait to see you this year and make some more memories."

We did make memories this summer when my whole family went to Cape Cod. Just imagine six of my great-grandkids and 8 adults in one small cottage for 5 days! The kids loved the beach where I took many photos so I can relive the memories this winter in Florida. After all, I always thought it did look a lot like good old Cape Cod, especially when sitting on the beach enjoying the sunset!



Life in Early Cortland County, New York

Life was not easy in the early days of Freetown and Freetown Corners, when Aaron Swetland there in the early 1800's. This is the site for the 2014 SFA reunion. If you are related to Swetlands who lived in this area, you may want to find out all you can about your ancestors who lived there before you go so you can find out where they lived and where they were buried. Bring pictures and other items to display at the reunion and share your past.

The Gazetteer and Business Directory of Cortland County, NY For 1869, which was compiled and published by Hamilton Child in Syracuse, NY in 1869, describes the hardy Freetown settlers: "The early settlers of this town endured all the hardships and privations incident to the settlement of a new country, being destitute of roads, mills and other improvements . . . The following description of a trip to mill is from 'Goodwin's History of Cortland County.'"



"The early pioneers, in preference to going to Ludlowville or Chenango Forks to mill, usually went to Onondaga Hollow or Manlius Square, a distance of forty miles, fording creeks and rivers, exposing themselves to cold and storms by night and day, being obliged to camp out two or three nights during their journey to and from mill, through an almost entire wilderness, filled, with wolves, panthers and other ravenous beasts of prey. As there were then no roads, they traveled by marked trees, whiling away the dull hours of time by whistling or singing some merry tune, or telling some legendary tale which may have been preserved for centuries by Indian tradition. At night, tired and hungry, the jaded horses were tied to a tree, and by the roots of some enormous oak or hemlock the pioneers would find a resting place; with the bags for pillows and an Indian blanket for a covering; and there, in the deep forest, surrounded by gaunt, howling wolves and poisonous reptiles, with the deep blue sky above all radiant with night's darkness, or perchance overspread with tartaean blackness, while the harsh, hoarse thunders rolled and reverberated through the wide expanse; now startled by a vivid flash of forked lightning as it leaps athwart the darkened sky, or shatters a proud old relic of the ancient wilderness into a thousand pieces, would await the return of day to resume their journey. And thus they endured these privations until 1798, when a mill was erected at Homer, or a year late; when Mr. Hubbard, of Cortlandville, built the old Red Mill."

As you travel the back roads, try to picture how the area and daily life appeared to the settlers, including some of your ancestors, in the past centuries in America.

—Anne Kirby, Editor



View This Newsletter,
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www.swetland.org

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**PLEASE SEND YOUR
ARTICLES, PHOTOS,
IDEAS TO THE
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:**

Anne (Sweetland) Kirby
3482 Concomly Rd. S.
Salem, OR 97306

Donation Form (Please make checks payable to Swetland Family Association)

My name is _____

Enclosed is my donation for the scholarship fund \$ _____ ,
and the newsletter fund \$ _____ .

MAIL TO:

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4819 State Route 367
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